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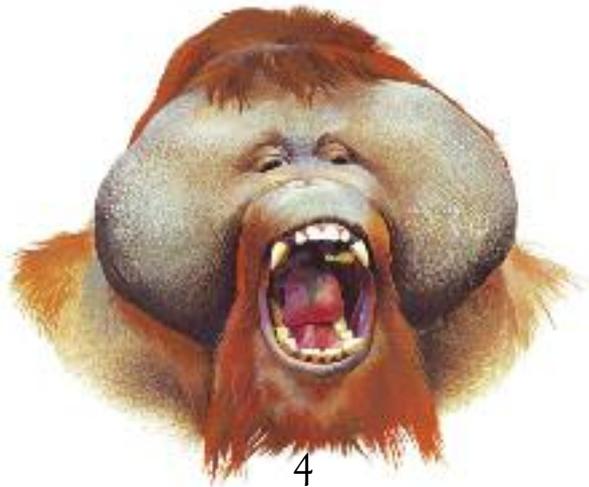
see how we live
**Monkeys
and apes**



 Orpheus

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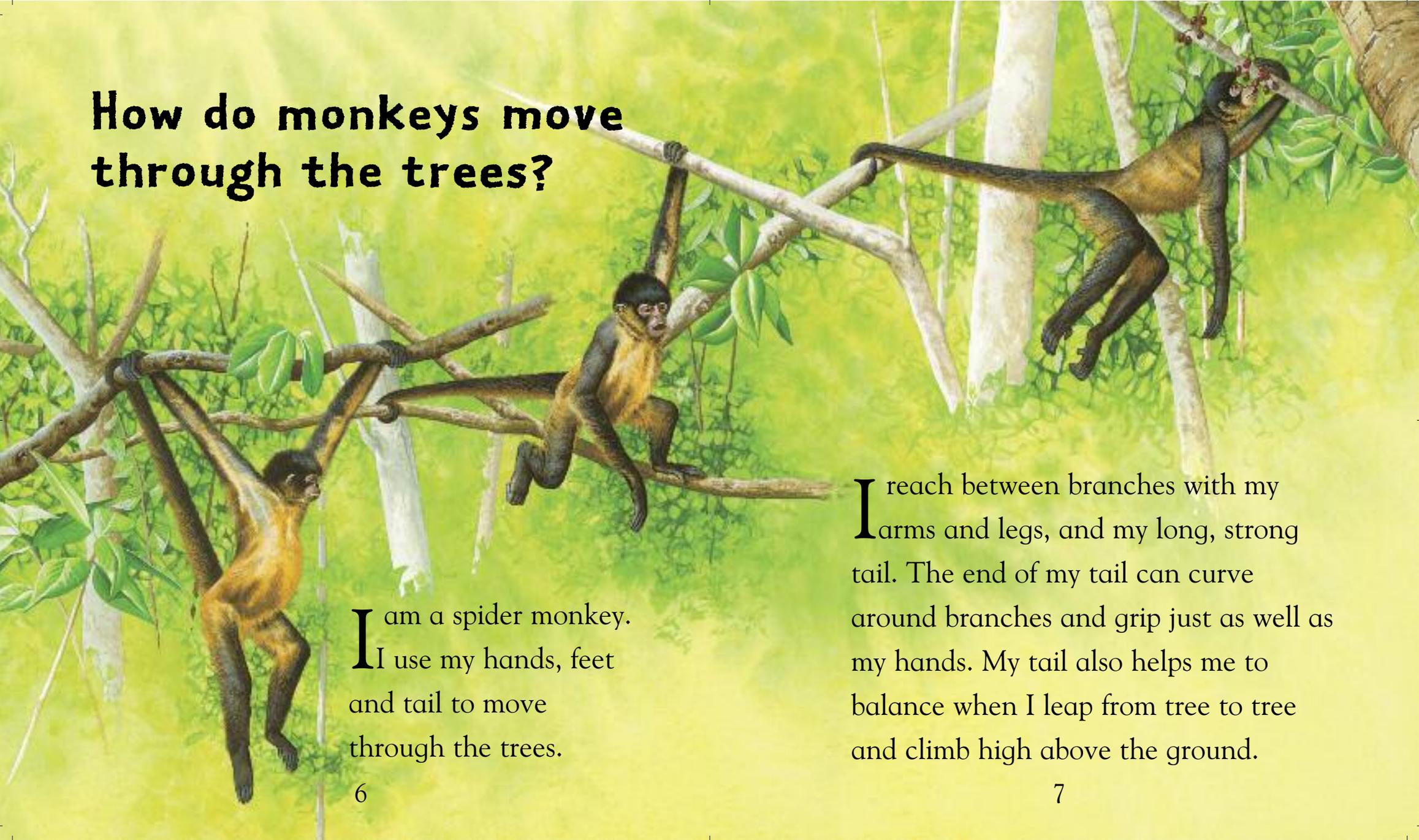


Monkeys and apes

We are your closest relatives. Have you spotted the resemblance? Just like you, we've got flat faces, forward-looking eyes and large brains. Many, but not all, monkeys have tails and live in the trees. Apes don't have tails. Did you know that the great apes—chimpanzees, orang-utans and gorillas—can all use tools? Not altogether surprising, because you humans are great apes too!

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How do monkeys move through the trees?



I am a spider monkey.
I use my hands, feet and tail to move through the trees.

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I reach between branches with my arms and legs, and my long, strong tail. The end of my tail can curve around branches and grip just as well as my hands. My tail also helps me to balance when I leap from tree to tree and climb high above the ground.

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The skin on my hands gives me a better grip. My fingers are very strong and shaped like hooks for hanging on tight. I have no thumb as this could get caught in the branches and cause me to fall.



The tip of my tail has no fur underneath. Instead, it has exactly the same sort of skin as I have on my hands. And that is perfect for gripping tight on to branches.

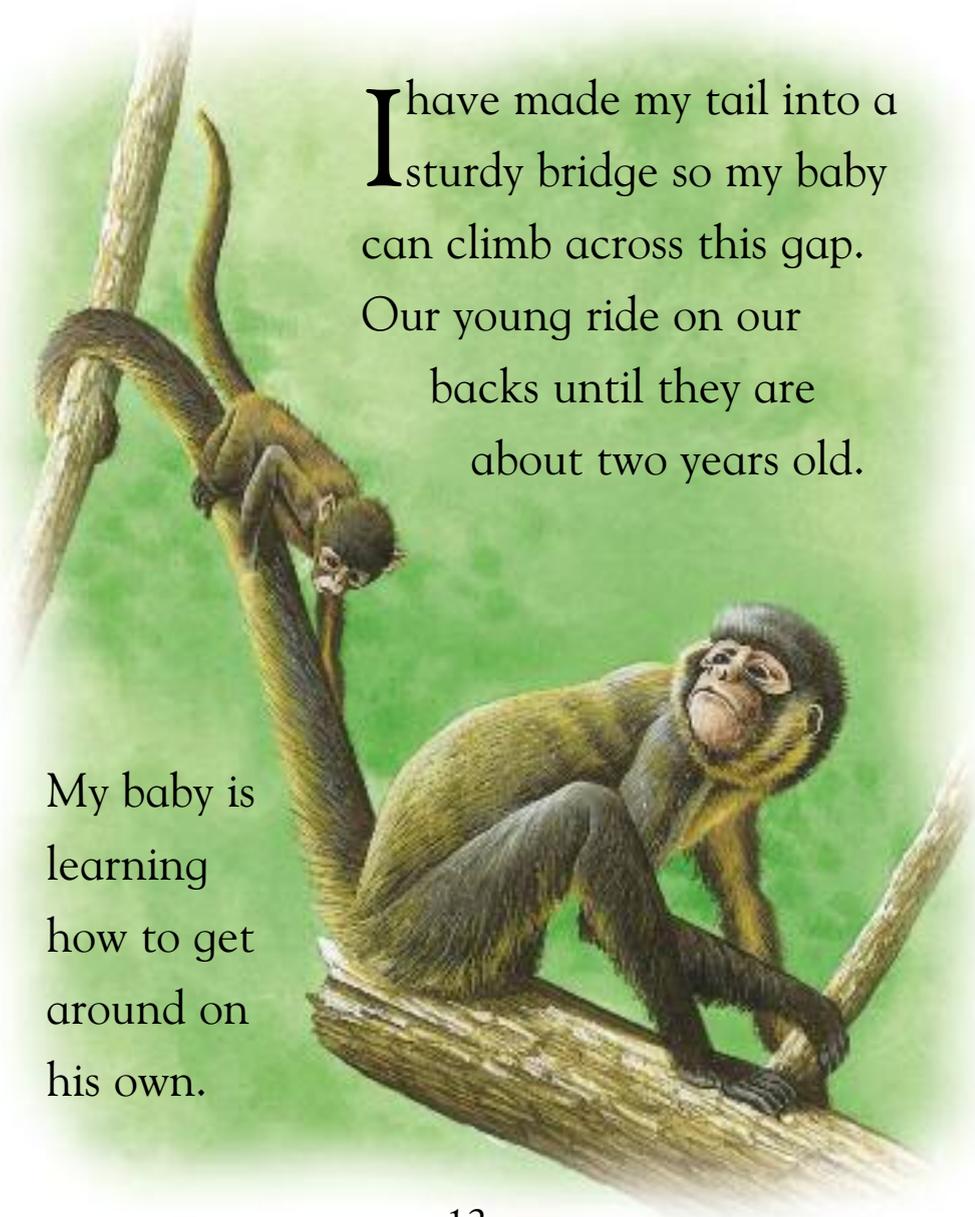


My eyes face forwards, just like yours. This helps me to judge distances as I swing through the trees. I can also see in colour, which is very useful for helping me find fruits and flowers that are good to eat.

My favourite food is fruit, but I will also eat leaves, shoots, birds' eggs and even bark, which I strip off with my teeth. Luckily, I have strong jaws to chew tough bark and seeds. I look for food during the daytime, and sleep high up in the trees at night

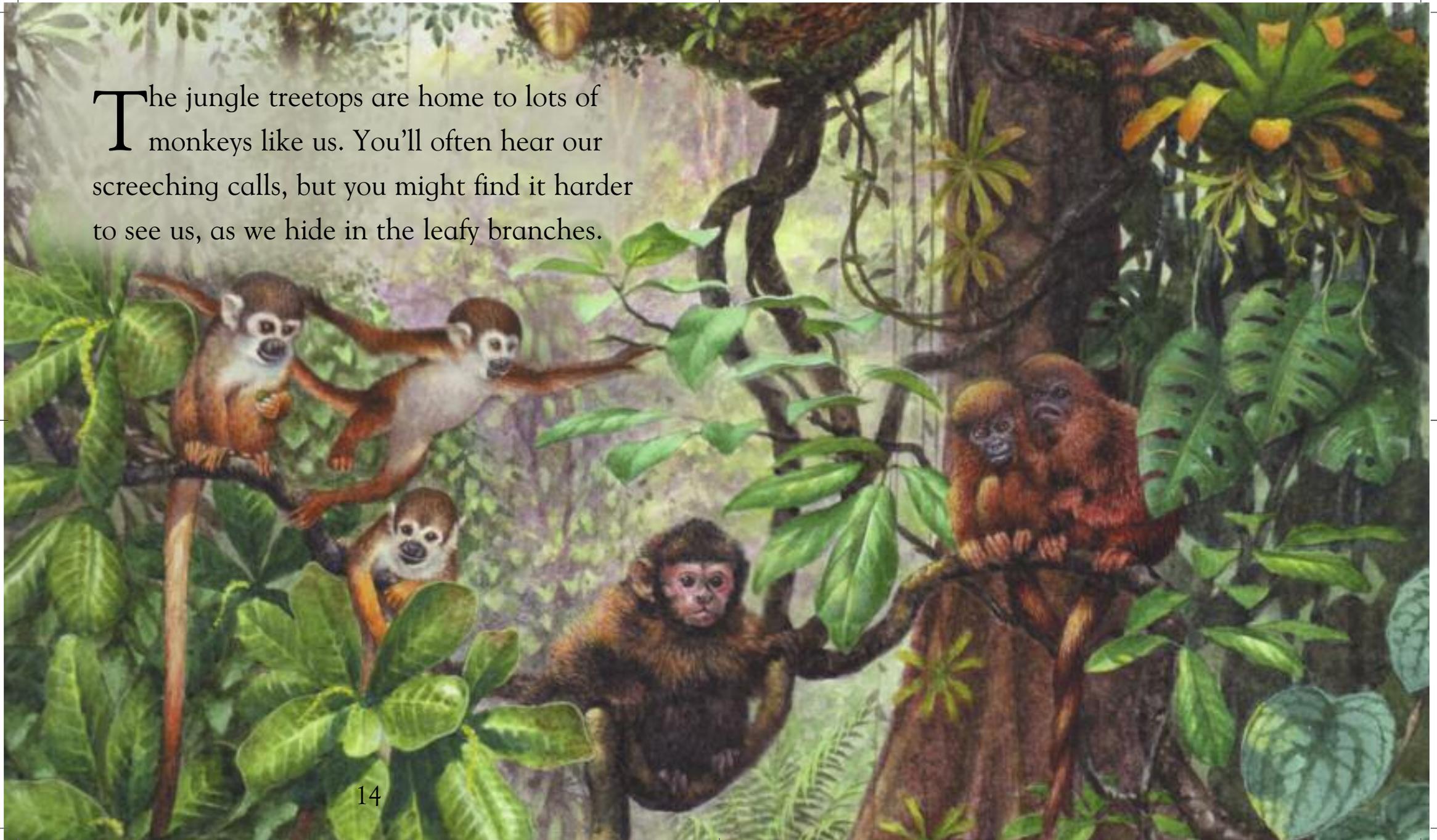
I have made my tail into a sturdy bridge so my baby can climb across this gap. Our young ride on our backs until they are about two years old.

My baby is learning how to get around on his own.



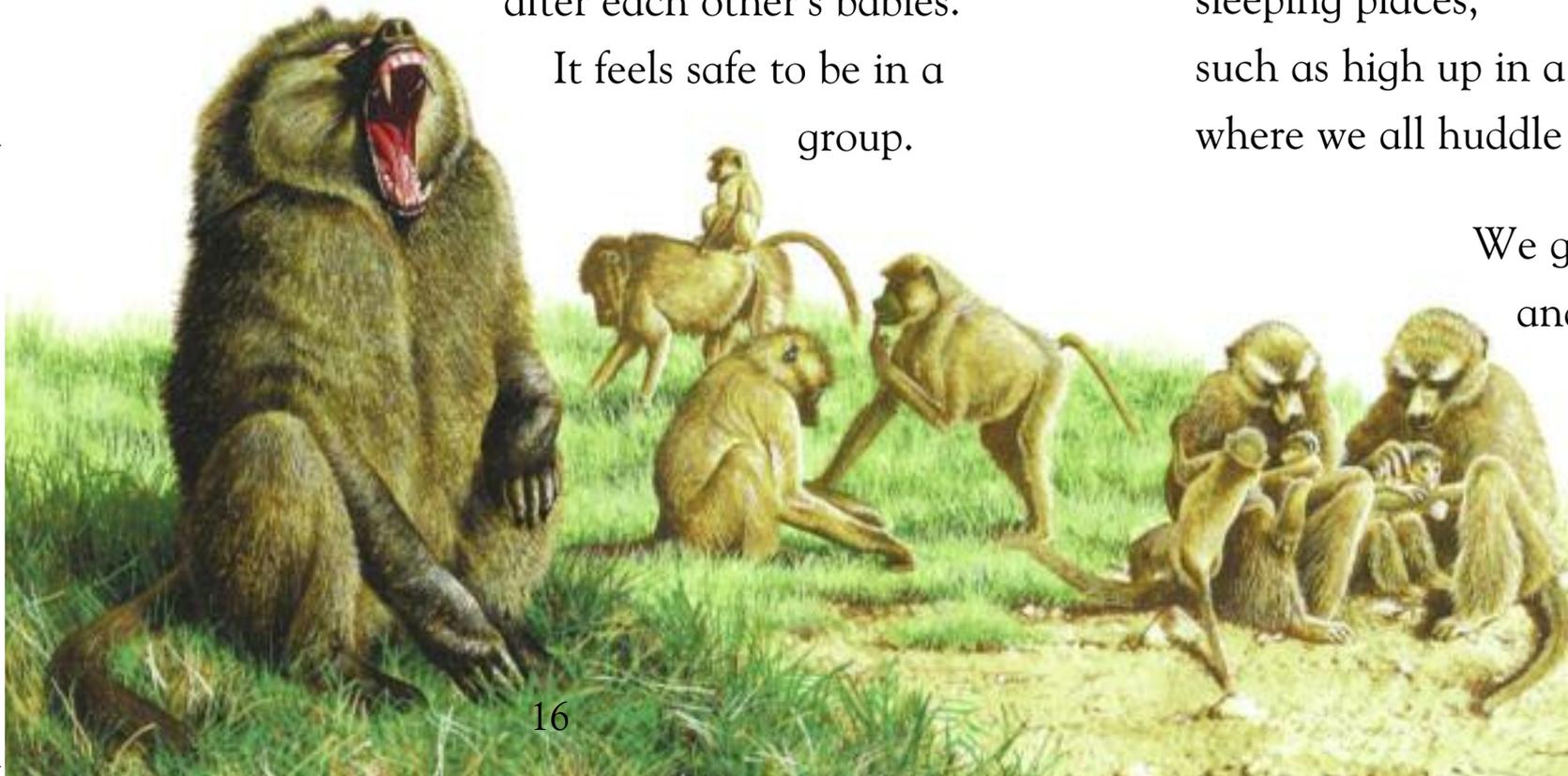
Hanging from my tail is easy! This leaves my hands free and helps me to reach places that would be impossible otherwise.

The jungle treetops are home to lots of monkeys like us. You'll often hear our screeching calls, but you might find it harder to see us, as we hide in the leafy branches.



Why do baboons live in troops?

There are over 50 of us in my troop.
We help each other to find food and look after each other's babies.
It feels safe to be in a group.



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We look for safe sleeping places, such as high up in a tree or on a cliff ledge, where we all huddle together.

We go foraging for grass, roots and berries in our African grassland home. We love to groom—scratching and picking at each other's skin to clean it.

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What do orang-utans eat?



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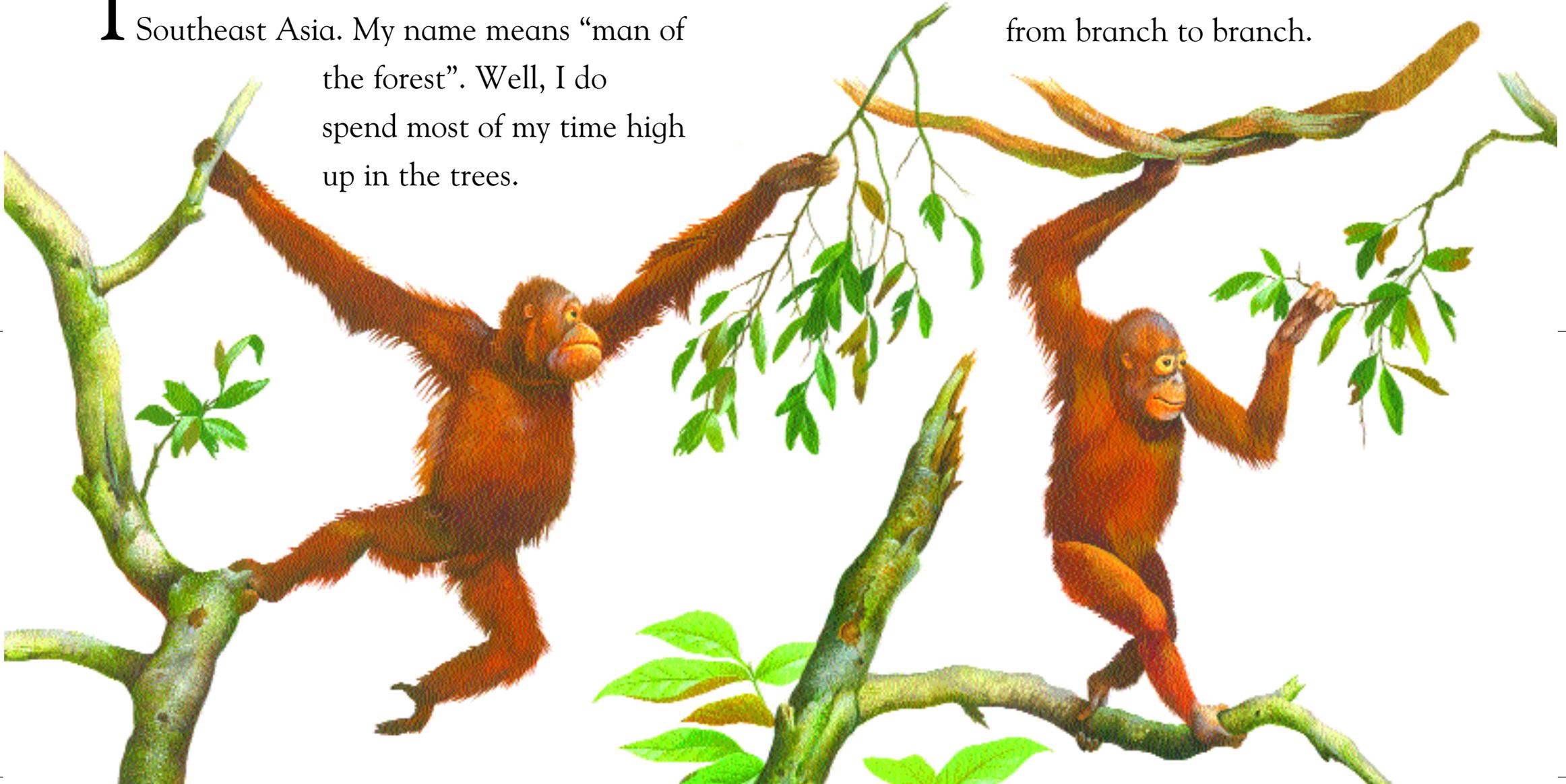
We orang-utans love to eat fruit, such as durians (a smelly, spiny fruit) and mangoes. Leaves, shoots, tree bark, eggs and even insects make a nice supper, too.

My hands are quite like yours, but they are much longer with a shorter thumb. This is a better shape for hanging on to tree branches.



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I live in the hot, steamy rainforests of Southeast Asia. My name means “man of the forest”. Well, I do spend most of my time high up in the trees.

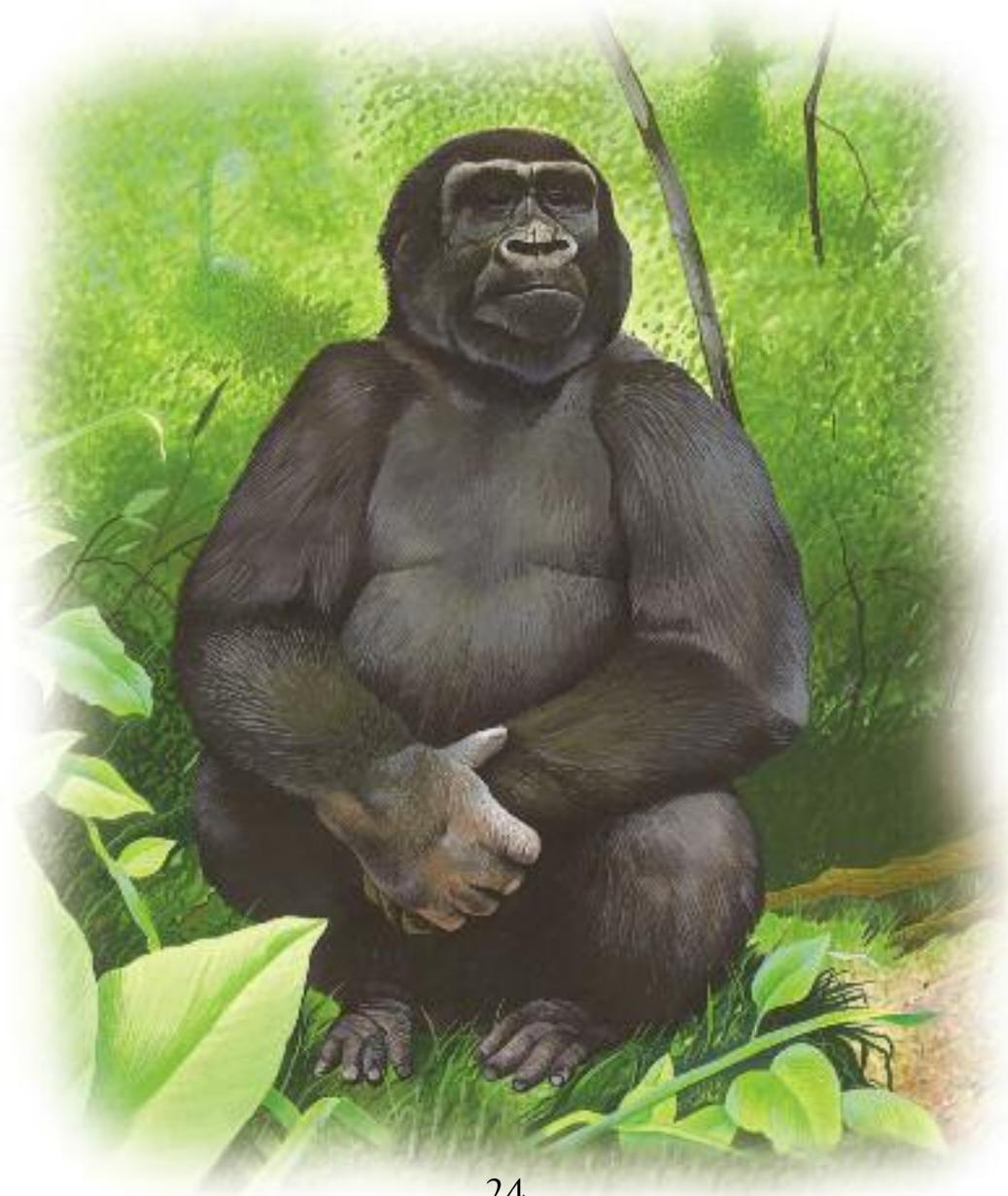


I get around by swinging from branch to branch.



I have found a delicious durian for my breakfast. See how well I can balance and eat at the same time? One false move and I could fall 40 metres to the ground.

When night falls I build a nest in the trees. I use twigs and branches to make a nice soft bed and a ceiling to keep out the rain.



Where do gorillas live?

My home is here in the cloud forest, high up in the mountains of Africa. That's why I'm called a mountain gorilla. I'm the largest ape in the world. Although I'm a good climber, I spend most of my time on the ground with other members of my family. We spend our time looking for leaves and stems to eat. I usually take a restful nap in the middle of the day.

My cousins, the lowland gorillas, live in the thick rainforest in central Africa. They are not quite as big as me, and prefer to eat fruit.

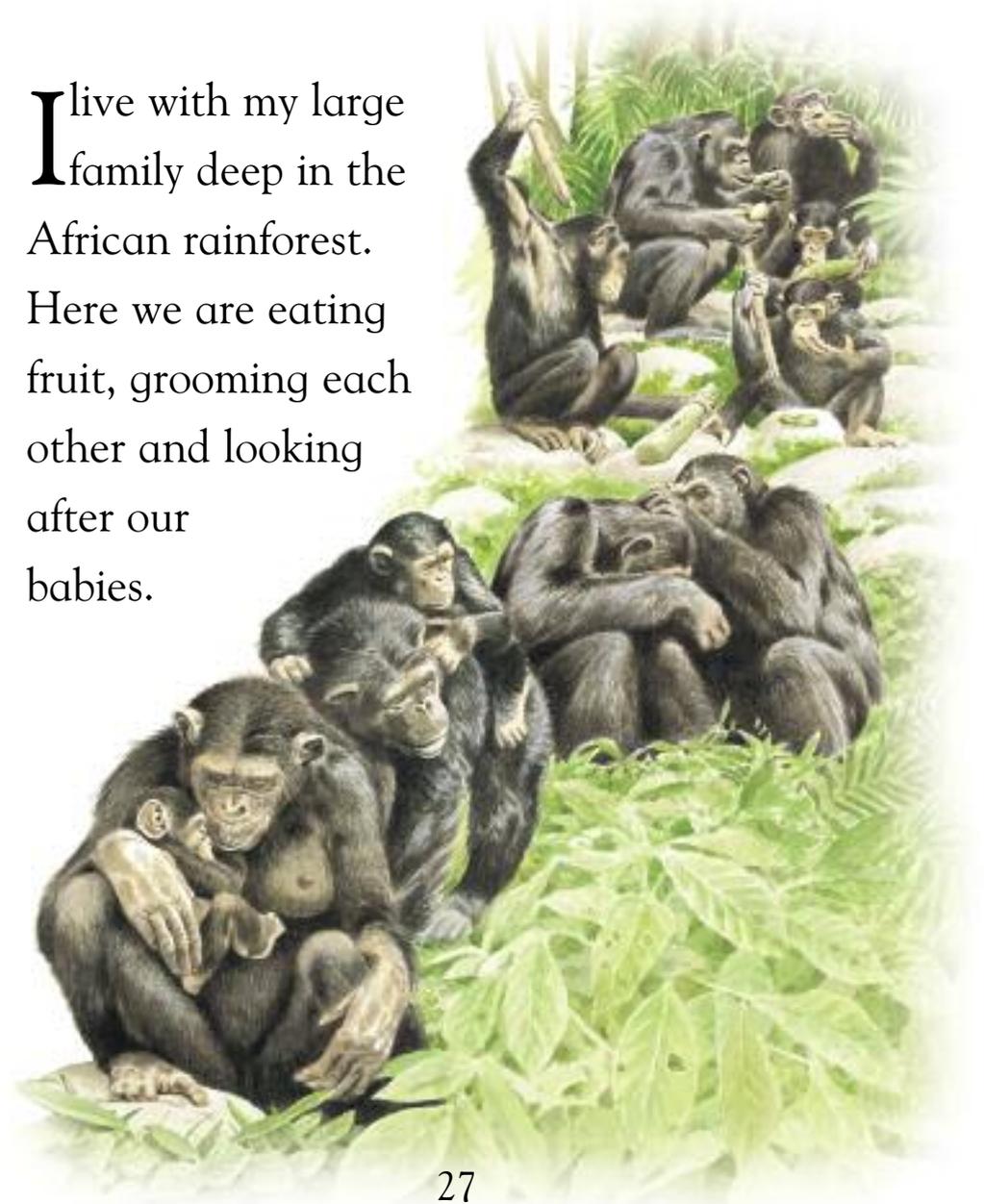
What do chimps use tools for?

I use tools to get food. This stick comes in handy for poking some juicy termites out of their nest. Termites are insects, a bit like ants. I also use sticks to scrape honey out of beehives. I can smash open nuts with a rock.



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I live with my large family deep in the African rainforest. Here we are eating fruit, grooming each other and looking after our babies.



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Why do gibbons have long arms?

We gibbons are not monkeys, but small apes. We are the champion tree-swingers of the jungle! Using our long arms we can swing huge distances from branch to branch: up to 15 metres. We can whizz through the forest at speeds of 60 kilometres per hour.

